

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00871 190956Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 H-01 SS-15 NSC-05  
SP-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01  
USIA-06 PRS-01 /072 W  
-----191008Z 005292 /22

R 190901Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7335  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 871

E.O. 11652: N/A (DECONTROL 30 APRIL 1979)  
TAGS: PFOR, OREP, SS, MR  
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF US CODEL ALKS WITH POLISARIO

REF: (A) STATE 85353, (B) COTONOU 706, (C) ALGIERS 933

1. TOOK OCCASION OF MEETING WITH MUARITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER  
OULD MOUKNASS ON ANOTHER TOPIC APRIL 18 TO REFUTE PRESS REPORTS  
ASSERTING US CODEL HAD MET WITH POLISARIO. EXPLAINED AMERICAN  
GROUP WHICH ENCOUNTERED POLISARIO REPS IN ALGERIA CONSISTED OF  
MEMBERS OF TWO STATE LEGISLATURES AND NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMICS, AND UNDERScoreD NO MEMBER OF GROUP WAS NATIONAL  
LEVEL, USG OFFICIAL.

2. MOUKNASS INDICATED HE WAS AWARE OF PRESS REPORTS, AND VOLUN-  
TEERED HE HAD CONCLUDED TRAVELERS WERE GROUP OF BLACK AMERICANS  
WHO WERE MORE INTERESTED IN AFRICA THAN IN POLITICS. AFTER  
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION OF CLARIFICATION, MINISTER OBSERVED  
HE WAS NOT SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT NEWSPAPERS INVOLVED HAD SEEN  
FIT TO MIX UP REPORTS OF CODEL DIGGS AND GROUP VISIT-  
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ING ALGIERS, NOTING ALGERIAN PROPAGANDA MACHINE WAS  
RESORTING TO THIS TYPE OF NEWS REPORTING WITH INCREASING  
FREQUENCY.

3. WARMING TO SAHARA SUBJECT, MOUKNASS REITERATED CUR-  
RENT, CATEGORIC GIRM LINE; SAHARA PROBLEM IS PERMANENT-  
LY RESOLVED; ALGERIANS ARE SIMPLY GOING TO HAVE TO AC-

CEPT SOLUTION WHICH IS NOW FACT. HE POINTED OUT ALGERIA HAS LONG BEEN MINORITY OF ONE IN ARAB LEAGUE, AND DECLARED ALGERIA IS SLOWLY LOSING AFRICAN STATES WHICH PREVIOUSLY SUPPORTED IT ON SAHARA. MOUKNASS OBSERVED ALGERIAN "LEADERSHIP" HAD PEAKED YEAR OR TWO AGO WHEN IT WAS INDEED LEADER OF RADICAL ARABS AND RAN GROUP OF 77; NO LONGER. NOW ALGERIAN REGIME IS "AT BOTTOM OF HOLE LOOKING OUT" AND IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY MORE ISOLATED AT HOME AS WELL. PROCESS MAY WELL TAKE THREE YEARS, BUT MOUKNASS EXPECTS ALGERIAN REGIME WILL EVENTUALLY COME AROUND AND ACCEPT MAURITANIAN/MOROCCAN SAHARA SOLUTION. INTERVENING LOSS OF BLOOD, TREASURE AND TIMES IS UNFORTUNATE WASTE, BUT WRONG-HEADED POLICY OF ALGERIAN REGIME ALLOWS NO ALTERNATIVE.

HANDYSIDE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CODELS, LIBERATION FRONTS, ALLEGATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, OREP, SS, MR, US, POLISARIO, (HAMDI OULD MOUKNASS)  
**To:** STATE  
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